

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): Under that statute there is no obligation upon the city of Ottawa to report to the government or to parliament as to the way the money is expended.

Mr. SPEAKER: Answered.

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

PRAIRIE FARM REHABILITATION—IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Mr. WINKLER:

1. By provinces, what has been the cost of irrigation projects in the prairie provinces to the P.F.R.A.?
2. By provinces, what is the estimated cost per acre foot for new irrigation projects under contemplation?
3. By provinces, what is the estimated total cost of irrigation projects being planned?
4. What is the land area involved?

Mr. GARDINER: I have been asking to have this question stand from day to day. It is quite properly asked, but it will take considerable time to get the information, parts of which will have to be prepared in three different provinces in western Canada. If the hon. member will agree, I suggest that it be made an order for return.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order for return.

TOURIST FACILITIES—WESTERN ONTARIO

Mr. BROWN:

1. What assistance has been rendered by the federal government in the development of roads, parks or tourist facilities in the Niagara peninsula?
2. What steps have been taken by the government with respect to development of the ports of entry, such as Windsor, Ontario, to assist the tourist industry?

SUGAR

INQUIRY AS TO DISCONTINUANCE OF RATIONING TO CONSUMERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. DROPE (Northumberland, Ont.): In view of the fact that housewives are finding the ration of sugar inadequate, and since the rationing of sugar to consumers in the United States ended yesterday, will the minister inform the house when the rationing of sugar to household consumers will be discontinued in Canada?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): I have not had notice of my hon. friends question. I shall take it into account and give a statement in due course.

[Mr. Church.]

NAILS

SHORTAGE IN VANCOUVER—QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply arising out of letters received from retail hardware merchants in Vancouver. They complain of inability to get nails to supply their normal retail demands. From the letters I get the impression that the situation is one of faulty distribution rather than short supply. Would the minister care to make a statement in the matter?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): Complaints have been received from the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) and the hon. member for Vancouver North (Mr. Sinclair) as to the lack of nails in the hardware stores on the Pacific coast. In response to those complaints I asked the coordinator of building supplies to make a personal visit to the Pacific coast to endeavour to discover some method of better distribution. I believe my hon. friend is right, that it is a matter of distribution. Certainly the production of nails on the Pacific coast, in proportion to the population served, is higher than in any other part of Canada.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROVISION TO MEET CERTAIN EXPENDITURES AND GUARANTEE OF SECURITIES AND INDEBTEDNESS

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport) moved the second reading of Bill No. 258, to authorize the provision of moneys to meet certain capital expenditures made and capital indebtedness incurred by the Canadian National Railways system during the calendar year 1947, and to authorize the guarantee by His Majesty of certain securities to be issued by the Canadian National Railways Company.

Mr. F. W. TOWNLEY-SMITH (North Battleford): Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for the provision of funds for capital expenditures on the Canadian National Railways. For some years, along with some of my colleagues, I have been asking for the completion of certain railways in the northern part of Saskatchewan, specifically those which run from Frenchman Butte to a place called Heinsburg in Alberta, and another which goes from St. Walburg to Beaver River, also in Saskatchewan.